

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 241094

14

ORIGIN AF-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIG-01 /005 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:AF/I:LPSLEZAK:IRT

APPROVED BY:AF/I:WHLEWIS

----- 043027

R 282112Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 241094

FOLLOWING REPEAT BRUSSELS 0936 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ALL EC CAPITALS,
PRETORIA, JOHANNESBURG DTD 23 SEP 76.

QTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 09326

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ELAB, SR

SUBJECT: LABOR CONFERENCE ON SOUTH AFRICA

REF: EC BRUSSELS 8955

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 241094

1. AN INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE ON SOUTH AFRICA, HELD

IN BRUSSELS SEPTEMBER 21 TO ADOPT "CONCRETE AND CONCERTED MEASURES" IN SUPPORT OF SOUTH AFRICAN WORKERS, AGREED ON THE NEED FOR "AN IMMEDIATE DEMONSTRATION OF SOLIDARITY" BUT NOT ON WHAT THAT DEMONSTRATION SHOULD BE. A DRAFT PRESS COMMUNIQUE PREPARED FOR THE CONFERENCE, CO-SPONSORED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU) AND THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (WCL), PROPOSED ACTION " SUCH AS THE GROUNDING OF SOUTH AFRICAN AIRCRAFT AND SHIPS," BUT AFTER DISCUSSION THOSE WORDS WERE STRICKEN FROM THE TEXT. THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE SIMPLY ASKED THE EXECUTIVE BOARDS OF THE ICFTU AND THE WCL "TO DECIDE UPON A WELL-DEFINED PERIOD OF SPECIFIC SOLIDARITY ACTION."

2. APART FROM OFFICIALS FROM THE ICFTU AND THE WCL HEADQUARTERS, 29 PERSONS ATTENDED THE CONFERENCE, A TURN-OUT SOMEWHAT SMALLER THAN THE SPONSORS HAD EXPECTED. OF THE THREE POLITICAL PARTY REPRESENTATIVE IN ATTENDANCE, THE HIGHEST RANKING WAS THE CHAIRMAN OF ICELAND'S SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, BENEDIKT GRONDAL; THE OTHER TWO WERE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY STAFFERS FROM BONN AND STOCKHOLM.

3. NOTABLY ABSENT WERE PERSONS WHO COULD HAVE CALLED A STRIKE AT AN AIRPORT OR DOCK. THE INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE, GARMET AND LEATHER WORKERS FEDERATION WAS REPRESENTED, BUT NOT THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS FEDERATION. AS A RESULT, THE PROPOSAL FOR A LABOR-IMPOSED EMBARGO ON SHIPPING AND TRAVEL TO AND FROM SOUTH AFRICA WILL BE SAVED FOR THE ICFTU EXECUTIVE BOARD, WHICH NEXT MEETS NOVEMBER 24 TO 26 IN BRUSSELS.

4. ACCORDING TO AN ICFTU STAFFER WORKING ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS, ANDREW KALEMBO, THE PROPOSED EMBARGO WOULD BE FOR ONLY A FEW DAYS OR AT MOST A WEEK, WITH LONDON AS THE KEY POINT FOR ENFORCING IT. BUT HE RECOGNIZES THAT EVEN SUCH A LIMITED APPROACH POSES A HARD CHOICE FOR TUC LEADERS.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 241094

5. IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE MISSION'S LABOR ATTACHE, KALEMBO CALLED ATTENTION TO THREE POINTS HE CONSIDERED ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT IN THE PRESS COMMUNIQUE ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE.
A. THE STATEMENT URGES "INDUSTRIAL ACTION IN CASES WHERE COMPANIES REFUSE TO RECOGNIZE AFRICAN TRADE UNIONS INSIDE AFRICA AND FAIL TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED LABOR STANDARDS." KALEMBO

SAID THAT PRESSURE FROM LABOR AND RELIGIOUS GROUPS HAS MODIFIED POLICIES OF SOME FOREIGN COMPANIES IN SOUTH AFRICA, AND THAT SUCH PRESSURE WILL BE INCREASED.

B. THE STATEMENT URGES UNIONS "TO INTENSIFY THE ANTI-EMIGRATION CAMPAIGNS AS A MATTER OF HIGH PRIORITY." KAILEMBO SAID THAT THE ICFTU HAS PRINTED LITERATURE IN FOUR LANGUAGES (ENGLISH) GERMAN, DUTCH AND FRENCH) TO DISCOURAGE EUROPEANS FROM MIGRATING TO SOUTH AFRICA.

C. THE STATEMENT CALLS FOR "FINANCIAL AND MORAL SUPPORT TO THE AFRICA TRADE UNIONS INSIDE SOUTH AFRICA, INCLUDING ASSISTANCE TO ORGANIZING CAMPAIGNS, EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO IMPRISONED AND RESTRICTED TRADE UNIONISTS." KAILEMBU REPORTS THAT ON A RECENT 10-DAY VISIT TO SWAZILAND, BOTSWANA, AND JOHANNESBURG HE FOUND THAT 22 AFRICAN UNIONS WERE OPERATIVE-EVEN WITHOUT LEGAL RECOGNITION.

6. IN A TALK AT THE CONFERENCE, KAILEMBO GAVE HIS IMPRESSION OF THE CHANGE IN ATTITUDES OF SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS IN THE PAST YEAR: "I WAS STUCK BY THE CHANGE OF ATMOSPHERE AND MOOD. OPEN WAR HAS BEEN DECLARED AGAINST THE VORSTER REGIME AND THE WHOLE NETWORK OF APATHEID LEGISLATION AND PRACTICE. THE AFRICANS ARE NOW PREPARED TO FIGHT TO THE LAST DROP OF BLOOD. HINTON UNQTE: ROBINSON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, COMMUNIQUES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE241094
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AF/I:LPSLEZAK:IRT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760366-1197
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760910/aaaaaiut.tel
Line Count: 142
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 EC BRUSSELS 8955
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <13 AUG 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LABOR CONFERENCE ON SOUTH AFRICA
TAGS: PFOR, ELAB, GH, SF, XJ, BE
To: ACCRA ADDIS ABABA DAKAR MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006